

Application No. 10/810,089
Amendment dated SEPTEMBER 15, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated May 17, 2006

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REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed on May 17, 2006. Applicants respectfully traverse all objections, rejections, and assertions made by the Examiner. With this amendment, claims 1, 17, 21, 22, and 23 are amended. No new matter is added. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, and 20-23 remain pending.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, and 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishide et al. (U.S. 2004/0267280 A1) in view of Dae et al. (U.S. 2002/0111657 A1). Independent claims 1, 17, 21, and 23 are all amended to recite that the non-metallic coating material comprises an ultraviolet-curable paint, lacquer, varnish, or shellac. Claim 22 is similarly amended to recite that the coating means comprises an ultraviolet-curable paint, lacquer, varnish, or shellac. Support for these amendments can be found, for example, on page 7, lines 8-17, page 8, lines 3-26, and page 9, lines 1-22. Neither Nishide et al. nor Dae et al. appear to teach or suggest such an ultraviolet-curable non-metallic coating material. Because all of the claim limitations are not taught or suggested by the cited references, a prima facie case of obviousness cannot be maintained for claims 1, 17, 21, 22, and 23, or for those claims depending therefrom. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments and remarks overcome the rejection.

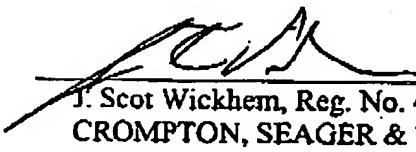
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Conclusion

Reexamination and reconsideration are requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is also respectfully requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,
ROBERT E. BURGMAYER et al.
By their attorney,

Date: September 15, 2006


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